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Muscle Shoals Baptist Association

v. 1. 1850		v. 11. 1888
v. 2. 1854		v. 12. 1891
v. 3. 1855		v. 13. 1892
v. 4. 1858		v. 14. 1893
v. 5. 1859		v. 15. 1895
v. 6. 1861		v. 16. 1896
v. 7. 1867		v. 17. 1897
v. 8. 1871		v. 18. 1898
v. 9. 1885		v. 19. 1899
v. 10. 1887		v. 20. 1900





MINUTES.

The delegates composing the seventy-third annual session of the Muscle Shoals Baptist Association convened in the First Baptist church house, Decatur, Alabama, on Friday, the 30th of September, 1892, at 11 a. m.

The Introductory sermon was preached by Elder Robert T. Wear, from John 3:30: "He must increase."

After the sermon there was a recess until 2 p. m.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The association assembled at the appointed time.

Elder W. M. Blackwelder, the former Moderator, called the Association to order. The former Clerk, Elder Joseph Shackelford, took his place at the Clerk's table. A selection of Scripture was read by the Moderator, after which a hymn was sung, and prayer was offered by Elder James W. Sandlin.

Bros. J. C. Orr, C. G. Lynch and O. E. Comstock were appointed reading clerks.

The letters from the churches were then read and names of the delegates enrolled, as follows.

Bethel (L)—W. W. NeSmith.
Bethel (M)—C. T. Stephenson, F. M. Reeves, W. C. Hartrell.
Bethany—J. T. Odell.
Blue Springs—John E. Weaver, Marion Briscoe, W. J. St. John.
Cave Spring—James Ratcliff.
Cherry Hill—Letter, no delegates present.
Danville—J. M. Kitchens, W. A. Petty.
Decatur, 1st—T. L. Ballue, C. B. Lloyd, W. W. Garnett.
Enon—R. L. Keys, A. J. Walker, J. W. McMillen.
Etha—R. F. Munter, E. A. Jones.
Falkville—J. N. Thompson, Virgil McCroskey.
Friendship—Thomas McDaniel, J. W. Walker.
Furnace Hill—O. E. Comstock.
Gum Springs (L)—Letter, no delegates.
Gum Springs (M)—J. E. Roan, T. M. Ward, B. L. Mullens.
Harmony—Ed Hamilton, J. S. Howell.
Hartrell—H. J. Halbrooks, J. D. McClanahan, T. C. Ryan.
Hopewell—J. H. Hembree, F. H. Orr.
Hillsboro—Jos. Shackelford, A. W. Bailey.
Lebanon—W. H. Jenkins, J. W. Harvey.
Liberty—J. A. Neeley, W. J. Young, W. H. Grimes.
Macedonia (F)—Mike Finney.
Macedonia (M)—J. A. Frederick, C. N. Reynolds, T. Sykes.
Mission Grove—J. W. Yates, R. R. Reid.
Moulton—Thomas Hutcheson.
Mt. Zion (M)—J. J. Thompson, C. Thompson.
Mt. Hope—Wm. R. Roberts.
Mt. Nebo (M)—J. R. Witt, W. H. Speegle, W. B. Gibson.
Mt. Nebo (F)—Wm. East.

Mt. Pisgah—G. H. Hughes, L. R. Day, H. A. McClellan.
 New Hope—E. A. Moran.
 New Prospect—Wm. Sea, M. A. Masterson, John Caruth.
 New Decatur (1st)—H. R. Schramm, J. C. Lance.
 New Center—J. S. Wright, S. T. Wright.
 New Friendship—W. E. Wright, G. W. Berry.
 Okolona—W. D. Braswell.
 Pleasant Grove—J. W. Sandlin, Rush Stockton.
 Pleasant Hill—J. Gunn, J. Speer, W. P. Hill.
 Russellville—C. G. Lynch, Peter Clay.
 Sheffield—Letter, no delegates.
 Salem—J. E. Weathermax, J. V. Murphree.
 Shady Grove—C. M. Livingston, J. S. Howell, J. W. Livingston.
 Shoal Creek—B. Byars, E. T. Spain.
 Somerville—T. J. Weaver, S. A. Lynn.
 Sharp's Spring—Letter, no delegate.
 Tuscumbia—A. E. Burns, A. L. Moody, Hugh McWilliams.
 Town Creek—R. T. Wear.
 Valhermosa Springs—C. R. Cirbow, George Cree, T. J. Sanders.

The following brethren, members of the Executive Board, were present, who, by virtue of their office, are members of the association:

O. D. Gibson, H. B. Irwin, T. W. Lynch, C. A. Lynch, A. L. Moody, Wm. East and A. W. Bailey.

After the enrollment of the names of the delegates, the Moderator announced that the Association was ready for business, and the first business in order was the election of officers.

The Association then proceeded to the election of Moderator and Clerk by ballot.

By request, Bros. J. M. Waller and J. L. Thompson acted as tellers.

The election resulted in the choice of Elder Jackson Gunn, as Moderator, and Elder Josephus Shackelford, as Clerk.

After a few appropriate remarks by Bro. Gunn, on taking the Moderator's place, he declared the Association ready for business.

The order of business as printed in the minutes of last year was adopted as the order of business for this session.

PETITIONARY LETTERS.

The following churches presented letters petitioning for membership, and were received and the right hand of fellowship given to their delegates:

Central Baptist church, New Decatur—W. M. Blackwelder, W. H. Simpson and John A. Thomson.

Isbell Baptist church, Isbell, Franklin county, Alabama—J. M. Deveneau and L. W. Hargett.

CORRESPONDENTS

The following brethren were received as correspondents:

Elder J. L. Thompson, from North Liberty Association and a representative of the State Board of Ministerial Education.

Elder J. M. Waller, Assistant Corresponding Secretary of State Mission Board.

COMMITTEES.

The Moderator appointed a Devotional Committee as follows: C. B. Lloyd, W. M. Blackwelder, H. R. Schramm, A. C. Moody and H. B. Irwin.

On motion, it was resolved to have a night session and that the Report on Temperance be made the special order for that session.

The Association adjourned to 7½ o'clock p. m.

Prayer by Brother J. M. Deveneau.

NIGHT SESSION—7½ P. M.

The Association met at the appointed hour, and was opened by singing, reading of the Scriptures, and prayer by Elder Mike Finney.

COMMITTEES.

The Moderator announced the following committees:

On Deceased Ministers—Jos. Shackelford, A. E. Burns, H. B. Irwin.
On State of Religion—J. D. McClanahan, R. L. Keys, H. A. McClellan.
On Documents—H. J. Halbrooks, James N. Thompson, T. L. Ryan.
On Finance—A. L. Moody, W. H. Simpson, O. D. Gibson.

The report on Temperance was then read by Bro. W. H. Simpson, the chairman of the committee.

The subject was then discussed by Bros. J. Speer, J. M. Waller, E. D. Stephenson and J. M. Deveneau, at considerable length; pending the discussion, on motion, the association adjourned until 9 o'clock Saturday morning.

SECOND DAY'S PROCEEDINGS.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1, 1892.

The Association met pursuant to adjournment.

The religious exercises were led by Elder W. S. Brown, of Florence, after which the minutes of Friday were read, corrected and approved.

The following brethren were present and invited to seats:

Dr. B. F. Riley, President of Howard College.
Elder W. S. Brown, of Florence Association.
Elder W. D. Hubbard, of Shelby Association.

BAPTIST MALE AND FEMALE INSTITUTE, MOULTON, ALA.

Brother H. B. Irwin, President of the Board of Trustees of the Baptist Male and Female Institute at Moulton, read the report of the board, which was received, and after some discussion, was ordered to be spread on the minutes:

We, the Trustees of the Baptist Male and Female Institute at Moulton, report, that we have a school of about seventy-five pupils, Prof. A. G. Spinks, Principal; Mrs. Spinks and Miss Minor, Assistants. This is the second year that we have had the services of Prof. Spinks, and he has given to the Trustees and patrons of the School, so far as we have heard, universal satisfaction. We believe that we have a school that is worthy the patronage of the Baptists of the association.

We ask to report that the school building is in such a condition that there will be an immediate necessity for an outlay of from seven to eight hundred dollars to preserve the building from serious damage.

The term of the following trustees expires at this session of the association: H. J. Remington, J. M. Sandlin and J. N. Bragg.

Respectfully submitted,

H. B. IRWIN,

President Board of Trustees.

On motion of Bro. C. G. Lynch, a committee of three was appointed to take into consideration the suggestion of the Board of Trustees as to repairs, and also to report on the disposition of said school, and to nominate trustees to fill vacancies of those whose time expires with this session.

Committee, C. G. Lynch, W. H. Simpson and A. L. Moody.

MISSIONS.

The subject of Missions was then taken up and the following reports were read:

On Associational Missions, by Bro. J. E. Weaver.

On State Missions, by Bro. H. R. Schramm.

On Home Missions, by Bro. A. L. Moody.

On Foreign Missions, by Bro. R. T. Wear.

The report of the Centennial Committee, by Bro. H. R. Schramm.

On motion, the time of the first speaker was limited to one hour, and the rest to ten minutes.

The whole subject of Missions was then discussed by Bro. J. M. Waller, who spoke of the progress of missions, using the missionary map to illustrate the subject.

After Bro. Waller's speech, Bro. J. L. Thompson took up a collection and pledges for centennial missions.

We give the pledges and collections below:

CENTENNIAL MISSIONS.

Tuscumbia church.....	\$10 00	Macedonia church, (F) paid.....	\$1 00
Town Creek church.....	2 50	Mt. Hope church, paid.....	1 00
Hillsboro church.....	5 00	Pleasant Grove church, paid...	1 00
Moulton church.....	2 50	*Enon church, paid.....	5 17
*Danville church, \$7 60 paid...	26 00	*Pleasant Hill church, paid.....	18 05
Decatur church, \$1 paid.....	10 00	Hartsell church, \$1 paid.....	5 00
*Bethel church (M) paid.....	5 00	*Somerville church, paid.....	10 80
*Blue Spring church.....	18 00	Mt. Nebo church (F).....	5 00
New Decatur church.....	10 00	Furnace Hill church.....	5 00
Shady Grove church.....	1 00	Central, Decatur church.....	10 00
Isbell church.....	1 00		
Total.....			\$153 02

INDIVIDUALS AND SUNDAY-SCHOOLS.

W. D. Brasswell, paid.....	50	Moulton S. S., paid.....	5 00
W. J. Young, paid.....	50	A. L. Moody, paid.....	1 00
J. S. Gibson.....	1 00		
Total.....			\$ 8 00
Total.....			\$161 02

A portion of the above was gotten up in centennial meetings during the year, and show what was pledged and paid at these meetings. We mark with a star those churches at which those meetings were held.

The association then adjourned until 2 p. m.
Prayer by Bro. W. M. Blackwelder.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The association met pursuant to adjournment.
Prayer by Bro. Comstock.

The subject of missions was continued and discussed by Breth. J. W. Sandlin, Deveneau, H. R. Schramm, C. G. Lynch, J. Speer, M. Finney, Comstock, Waller and Shackelford, after which pledges were then taken from the churches for missions in general as follows:

Bethel (L).....	\$10 00	Bethel (M).....	\$10 00
Bethany.....	1 00	Cave Spring, pd F. C.....	5 00
Cherry Hill.....	1 00	Danville.....	35 00
Decatur.....	25 00	Enon.....	15 00
Echa.....	5 00	Falkville.....	10 00
Friendship.....	5 00	Furnace Hill.....	7 00
Gum Spring (M).....	5 00	Harmony.....	10 00
Hartsell.....	15 00	Hillsboro.....	50 00
Lebanon, pd F. C.....	1 00	Liberty.....	10 00
Macedonia (F).....	5 00	Mission Grove.....	5 00
Moulton.....	20 00	Mt. Zion (M).....	4 00
Mt. Hope.....	15 00	Mt. Nebo (M) Witt.....	2 50
Mt Pisgah, pd F. C.....	7 85	New Prospect.....	10 00
New Decatur.....	25 00	New Center.....	5 00
Okolona..... Brasswell.....	3 50	Pleasant Grove, pd F. C.....	2 50
Pleasant Hill.....	10 00	Russellville, \$3 pd by Clay.....	10 00
Sheffield.....	30 00	Salem, pd F. C.....	6 15
Shady Grove.....	5 00	Tharp's Spring.....	3 00
Tuscumbia.....	25 00	Town Creek, \$5.60 F. C. Wear...	20 00
Blue Springs.....	10 00	New Friendship.....	2 00
Shoal Creek.....	2 00	Somerville.....	10 00
Isbell.....	15 00	Central, N. Decatur.....	60 00
Cash collections.....	1 52		
			\$292 15
	\$241 87		241 87

Total pledged and cash.....\$534 02

The various reports on Missions were then adopted, as follows:

ASSOCIATIONAL MISSIONS.

The mission spirit was in the hearts of the brethren who formed the Association. In the year 1823 four missionaries were employed to labor in the bounds of the association. In 1829 a call was made for a contribution from all the churches for the purpose of paying men to preach in the destitute parts of our association. In 1831 the churches were requested to express

their opinion on missionary societies by letter to the association. In 1839 this association would not adopt the extreme anti-missionary resolutions of the Flint River Association. In 1843 the churches were advised to keep a fund on hand to pay traveling preachers. In 1844 a Home Mission Society was formed to meet at the same time and place of the association, and do the mission work of the association. In 1846 the association took its stand as a missionary body.

Great has been the work of the noble men of God who have gone forth sowing in tears. Eternity will tell how much they have glorified God. Our mission work has ever been demanded. It is demanded to-day. Victories have been won. There are victories to win to-day. Sin has its forces organized in our field, and we are to go out and take the field for the Lord. Urgent demands are upon us. New interests awake; cities and towns spring into existence. The stranger is at our own door to make his home in our midst. Great enterprises are at work. We should make the missionary enterprise overrule all others. Your committee would recommend:

- 1st. A continuance of mission work at the centers of population.
- 2d. That the more remote parts be guarded from false teachers.
- 3d. That the field south and east of our association should be visited by our missionaries.

J. E. WEAVER,
J. D. McCLANAHAN.

STATE MISSIONS.

We, your committee, beg leave to submit the following report: We believe that State Missions is the foundation-stone on which all other missions are builded. The water that is poured into the pump that brings up the water that is in the well could not be had if the pitcher full of water was not there to put into the pump. So, if we had not State Missions we could not get Home Missions and Foreign Missions. The Board of State Missions is located at Selma, Ala., and W. B. Crumpton is its corresponding secretary. The State Miss on Board is now in the 17th year. It has received after the first two or three years, for use in Alabama, an average of \$8,000 per annum. It also acts as agent for the Home Mission Board, at Atlanta, Ga. and the Foreign Mission Board, at Richmond Va. It received for all purposes last year \$20,000. It had in its employ forty-seven men. The year's work cannot be given until November, when the Convention meets. Besides the direct work of the Board through its missionaries in town and country, eternity, alone, will reveal the results of hundreds of letters written by the Secretary, the many thousands of tracts and other printed matter sent out from the office, and the sermons and addresses delivered by the secretary, not only on missions, but on temperance, education, and indeed, on all objects fostered by the State Convention. But with all the skill and energy of the secretary, aided by a Board of wise and discreet brethren, it is impossible for this work to go on successfully without the co-operation of the pastors and churches. Many of the Board's missionaries have not been paid for six months, and more serious embarrassments will confront the Board, unless speedy relief comes from the churches. We recommend the each church in our bounds adopt the monthly collection plan, beginning at the next meeting; and that each church send to Bro. Crumpton for a canvassing book, containing a page for each member, and the most active brother or sister be appointed to get a contribution from every member of the church for all the interests fostered by the State Board; and that the churches use the envelope system. The churches can have both the canvassing book and envelopes by sending for them. If these suggestions are carried out by all our churches in this association, this coming year, we will be the banner association of the State.

Let us try, pastors, in this centennial year, to record the Muscle Shoals Association as the banner association of the State. She has done nothing long enough, let us bring her to the front. There are many places that need help in the State. Weak churches in the country and villages and towns, all need help; and as the Baptists preach the truth more than any other denomination, they should rise in their strength and preach the whole truth everywhere. What say you, brethren and sisters? If we are Mis-

sionary Baptists, let us show our faith by our works, and build a monument that shall stand for our children when we are sleeping in the dust. It will be better to have such a monument than silver or gold. We recommend the State Mission Quarterly, published by Bro. W. B. Crompton, at Marion, Ala., price, 15 cents, single copy, or in clubs of ten, for ten cents.

Respectfully submitted,

H. R. SCHRAMM, Chairman.

REPORT ON HOME MISSIONS.

Your committee, appointed to bring before your body the subject of Home Missions, would report as follows: Our Board, located at Atlanta, Ga., has done, and is doing a noble work, but the large amount of work done has not supplied the needs set before them, nor the demands made upon them. Their last report to the Southern Baptist Convention shows that they have had employed, during the last conventional year, 365 Missionaries. These Missionaries have labored 10,644 weeks, delivered 46,866 sermons and addresses; baptized 5,274, which is nearly 15 per Missionary. They have also constituted 179 churches; organized many prayer meetings and Sunday-schools, and scattered many tracts of good sound literature. The Treasurer's report for the year shows a total of cash receipts from the States of \$74,895.18; miscellaneous receipts, \$9,961.01; making a total of \$84,871.19. The amount raised by co-operative bodies and expended in joint mission work on the field, \$68,683.40. For houses of worship on mission fields, \$64,064.24. This makes a grand total of receipts during the year, of \$227,281.51. The cash receipts of the Board, despite the hard times, are \$17,682.88 in excess over the previous year.

We consider this, under all the circumstances, a fine showing. We would also call your attention to the work being done by the Woman's Missionary Union, auxiliary to the Southern Baptist Convention. They raised more than \$19,000 last year, and expended it in the extension of our Master's kingdom.

The work in Cuba, with Bro. Diaz, continues to grow. The Lord is continually adding to the church "the saved." Our Board urges upon us the extension of this work into the open doors to be found in every city, town and village. The colored people are also receiving attention from the Board, with some good results. They think they would be able to do a great deal more on this line, if they were able to put a good man in each of the States. Our work among the Indians is also fostered by the able and efficient management of our "Home Mission Board." Your committee would urge upon the churches the importance of the work of this Board, and recommend a liberal divide with it of their contributions to missions.

Respectfully submitted,

H. J. HALBROOKS,

A. L. MOODY,

Committee.

REPORT ON FOREIGN MISSIONS.

Your committee observes with pleasure that the receipts ending April 30, 1892, shows the largest sum ever received for foreign missions by our board. The Southern Baptist Convention is preaching the gospel of Christ in China, Africa, Italy, Brazil, Mexico and Japan. Our Foreign Board have in their various fields 99 missionaries, with 77 native assistants, and some 200 stations, with 2,723 church members, who have reported 434 baptisms, and have given \$3,956.09, more than one dollar per capita. Our home contributions are \$114,325.80. While this is the largest amount ever received in one year, by about \$800, still, dear brethren, we should remember that there has been an enlargement of the work, which caused an increased expenditure of some \$8,000. In a tract which fell into my hands, written by Rev. R. T. Vann, of North Carolina, title, "The Call of Baptists to Foreign Mission Work," the writer gives some statistics for 1883 and 1884, of five denominations: Congregationalists, Christians, Episcopalians, Methodists and Presbyterians. And while American Baptists gave not quite one fourth of the amount contributed by the other five denominations together, yet the number of converts added to Baptist churches that year exceeded all the other denomina-

ions together more than thirty-five per cent. The average amount to the convert, expended by each of the other denominations, was about seven times that expended by Baptists. In other words, so far as we may estimate the result of spiritual work in dollars and cents, the investment of Baptists in foreign mission work is seven times as productive as those of the other five denominations collectively. Now review these facts in order to get their cumulative weight. The originators of modern missions were Baptists. The first permanent missionary society was organized by Baptists; when American Baptists hesitated, God's own hand forced them to the front, and gave them easy leadership on the foreign field; the two names that have most deeply impressed modern missionary thought are Baptist names; the most remarkable missionary enterprise of the day was furthered, fostered and is still maintained by Baptists; the most signal displays of divine providence, the richest effusions of grace and the finest triumphs, have appeared in connection with Baptist missions; and the visible results, reported by the various denominations, make a remarkable showing in favor of the Baptists.

Now, we often blunder sadly, to be sure, in trying to read the handwriting of Providence. But does God mean anything by these facts? Does he mean to teach us anything by them? I venture no interpretations of them. I merely set them forth in hope that the teacher may give his own lessons. Listen to him, and whatsoever he saith unto you do it. As Baptists, we believe we hold the faith once delivered to the saints. We believe that no other people can utter this claim so broadly, or maintain it so firmly. Shall we call your attention again, my brethren, to the articles of our faith? The absolute sovereignty and sufficiency of the Bible; the inalienable right and the inevitable duty of private interpretation of the Scriptures; absolute liberty of conscience; immersion in water of believers, the only scriptural baptism; a regenerate church membership; the sovereignty of the individual church; the Lord Jesus Christ, the only King in Zion. These are truths given into our keeping by the King of Heaven. Are they worth preserving? Let us remember that to preserve them our fathers gave up their lives. It is the truth that shall make men free; and the world shall be given to the people that give the world the most truth. Our heritage of truth calls us to the world's deliverance. This year is the centennial of modern missions. What is the difference in the world's spiritual condition now, and that of a hundred years ago? I submit only a few facts taken from a pamphlet written by Rev. Thomas Pritchard, D. D.: "Foreign missionaries have not only contributed more largely than all other travelers to our knowledge of men and things in strange countries, but they have given the great blessing of a written language to two hundred millions of human beings, and these languages they have consecrated to the diffusion of God's Word; they have translated the Bible into more than a thousand different languages and dialects, so that now five-sixths of the entire world have the Scriptures in their own tongue. Schools, colleges and theological seminaries have been established. To-day the King of Burmah, instead of holding poor Judson in a filthy prison, welcomes missionaries to his capital. The Queen of Madagascar, instead of persecuting her Christian subjects, is crowned beneath a canopy inscribed, 'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace and good will to man.' In more than fifty islands of the Pacific, a great company have been reclaimed from idolatry and superstition. Africans worship the God of our fathers. In Asia, the citadel of cultivated and intellectual paganism, Persia, Hindostan, Japan and China have their story to tell. There may be those who will undertake to belittle the achievements of the past seventy years. But let them bear in mind that the first century of our Lord, and the one with miraculous gifts, closed with less than 500,000 disciples of Christ, or less than half of one per cent of the Roman empire."

The positive achievements of modern missions are wonderful.

Respectfully submitted,

R. T. WEAR,
J. C. ORR,
Committee.

REPORT OF CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE.

Your committee appointed at the last association to work up the centennial interest in this association, have been at work. We have not done as much as we wanted, but under the circumstances we have done the best we could. We held our first meeting with Bethel, in Morgan county. We had only moderate attendance until Sunday. The collections for the centennial fund was \$5.00. Bro. Halbrooks moved to Cullman, and Bro. Cobbs to Georgia, and so I was made chairman, and the moderator appointed Bro. J. Speer to help on committee, and he was made secretary.

Our next meeting was held with Ebon church with a fair attendance, Friday and Saturday. I had to leave Saturday evening. Collections were \$5.17. Our third meeting was held at Somerville; the attendance was good all the way through, and the church and community were greatly blessed by the sermons, talks and lectures on the map by Bro. Blackwelder. Collections, \$10.80. Our next meeting was at Pleasant Hill church, the attendance was good, the talks were instructive; the lecture on the map by Bro. Blackwelder, was good, and the collection was the best we have received, \$18.06. Our fifth meeting was at Sheffield. Our sixth meeting was at Danville; collections and subscriptions, about \$26.00. Our seventh meeting was at Blaine Springs. Friday it rained and we did not have many out. Bro. C. B. Lloyd and myself were all who were present to speak, except Bro. Weaver, the pastor. Bro. Briscoe came on Saturday. On Saturday we had a fine congregation, and Bro. Lloyd spoke on the best system to raise missionary money, and I lectured to them on my missionary map, and took pledges to the amount of \$16.50 which was for the centennial fund. In addition to these special meetings, I have delivered my map lecture at Cave Springs and Bethel to large crowds, and at Locust Grove, Liberty Association, and got pledges to the amount of \$4.00, with a promise that they would raise more for that fund. At Cullman I delivered my lecture, but did not take a collection, but had many out to hear, and they said that it did good. We recommend that this centennial work be pushed so that the interest may be advocated in every church, and that a map lecture be delivered at every church during this centennial year. We further recommend that the churches composing this association, sustain a Missionary in the Foreign field, as a thank offering to God for the success that foreign missions have had in the last one hundred years. This to be over and above the regular contributions; and we suggest that a committee be appointed now to report at this meeting, to consider the amount to be raised, which is \$600, and apportion it among the churches, so that each member of the church can have a share in this Centennial work, and that the month of January be set apart for this contribution; that each pastor preach a sermon at his appointment on Foreign Missions; tell the church before hand that a collection will be taken up at his next appointment for the Centennial thank offering. If it should rain, let him attend to it at his next appointment and send the money to Richmond, Va., to sustain our missionary whoever he may be.

We recommend that a member in each church be appointed as a Centennial solicitor for this work, so every member can be seen in every church. Let it be the most active sister you have in your church. We believe this can be done, and; not impoverish the churches in any way, but on the other hand, increase pastor's salary and missions. Pastors, try it, and see if you don't get more out of your churches. Feeling that this can be done by this association, we trust that the association will heartily endorse our report.

Respectfully submitted,

H. R. SCHRAMM, Chairman.

. REPORTS OF MISSIONARIES.

Bro. H. R. Schramm made his report as missionary, which was received and ordered to be spread on the minutes, as follows:

REPORT OF H. R. SCHRAMM.

Miles traveled in work—by private conveyance, 117; by rail, 412: on foot, about 200. Sermons preached—at East Decatur church, 92; at 7 protracted meetings away from Decatur, 71; also delivered 5 lectures on Foreign and Home Missions from missionary map; attended six Centennial meetings and made talks at them.

We held a week of prayer and self-denial at my church and took a collection, which amounted to \$7.29 for Foreign Missions; and then we had a week of prayer, which was very beneficial. I preached 10 funerals. I have received six into the church by letter and watchcare. Distributed 600 pages of tracts, 350 copies of "The Home Field." I conducted 40 prayer meetings, and made 40 Sunday-school talks at my church, and lectured to the Young People's Baptist Union at my church 20 times. We raised about \$175 00 to pay up our church debt and paint and plaster our house. We have raised \$60.00 in money and \$40 00 in subscriptions to build a preacher's house, and procured a lot from the Land Company upon which to build. I attended the Baptist State Convention at Eufaula, last November.

This is my year's work. In addition to this, I visited many families and read and prayed with them. I have taken quarterly collections, one for Ministerial Education and three for Missions. The amount due me for last year is \$50 00.

Respectfully submitted,

H. R. SCHRAMM.

REPORT OF JOHN SPEER.

Beloved Brethren—Your Executive Board agreed to give me one hundred dollars as a supplement to my salary for preaching one Sunday in each month at each of the following places: Mission Grove and Liberty church. Early in the winter I made arrangements with our beloved brother, J. M. Roberts, to fill out my unexpired term at Mission Grove. At Liberty, I feel that God has blessed my labors. Our protracted meeting there was not what we had hoped it might be as to conversions and additions to the church; nevertheless, I am impressed that much permanent good was done by the able preaching of Bros Schramm and Shackelford. In a few years, at most, this church will be self-sustaining, if the association shall see fit to help it until the church shall have the blessing of securing a few more strong members. I have received sixty-five dollars on my salary from your board.

Humbly submitted,

JOHN SPEER.

REPORT OF J. D. McCLANAHAN.

I received work from your board for two appointments: Cave Spring and Shady Grove. I have preached once a month, on Saturday and Sunday. I have devoted a good deal of my time in visiting families and encouraging them to attend church and Sunday-school. I conducted a series of meeting at Shady Grove, embracing the 4th Lord's day in July. Our meeting lasted seven days. We had the services of Elder J. Gunn. We had good preaching and good congregations. We had two conversions, and quite a number said, "Pray for us." We labored under considerable disadvantage, however, on account of the political excitement that was agitating the minds of our people at that time. We have our house well seated, but are not able to have it ceiled, on account of the pressure of the times. We have a good Sunday-school. This church still needs help from the board. They have called me for another year as their pastor, but they are not able to sustain a pastor yet. Feeling that this is a point that ought to be cultivated, I have labored to the utmost of my strength in the encouragement of the support of the gospel in my field of labor.

I conducted a series of meetings at Cave Spring, embracing the 5th Lord's day in July. I had the services of Elder H. R. Schramm, of East Decatur, who did us good preaching. Our meeting lasted seven days. We had three or four conversions. Others said, "Pray for us." This church is still a weak church, but it is in the center of a community that will in the future

add strength to it. I preached in connection with Cave Spring, at Rural Grove school-house, for seven months with good interest. I also held a series of meetings at old Friendship, commencing the 3rd Lord's day in September, which lasted six days. This is a point that Baptists ought to cultivate. I have devoted my entire time this year to the work of the ministry, except one month. I have traveled about 3,000 miles in the interest of our Master's cause. I received \$2 50 pledge from W. A. Belew.

Respectfully submitted,

J. D. McCLANAHAN.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD.

Bro. O. D. Gibson read the report of the Executive Board, which was received and ordered to be spread upon the minutes, as follows:

To the Muscle Shoals Association:

We, your Board, would respectfully make the following report: We met in Moulton, on October 20th, 1891. Members present—T. W. Lynch, D. A. Barleson, H. B. Irwin, W. D. Irwin, O. D. Gibson and T. J. Hutcheson. Bro. O. D. Gibson was elected President and T. J. Hutcheson, Secretary. The Board found on examination that there would be \$400.00 to operate on during the year in all the Mission work. Of this amount \$50.00 was allowed to the State Mission Board, and \$25.00 each to the Foreign and Home Mission Boards. New Decatur church was allowed \$50.00. Falkville church was allowed \$25.00 to assist them in paying their pastor. Shady Grove church was allowed \$50.00 and Cave Spring church was allowed \$25.00 to assist them in securing the services of their pastor, Bro. J. D. McClanahan. Bro. Speer was given the work at Liberty and Mission Grove churches, allowing him \$50.00 for each place. These churches to supplement sufficient to pay Bro. Speer for half his time. The President, Secretary and Treasurer, were instructed to write letters to all of the delinquent churches in the association urging them to send into the Board the amount of their unpaid pledges to the association.

Very respectfully,

T. J. HUTCHESON, Sec'y.

O. D. GIBSON, President.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

Bro. T. W. Lynch, Treasurer, read his report, which was received, and ordered to be spread on the minutes:

MOULTON, ALA., Sept, 30th, 1892

T. W. LYNCH, Treasurer,

In account with Muscle Shoals Association:
DR.

1891			
Oct.	4	To cash from Finance Committee.....	\$441 18
	17	Town Creek church, balance of 1890.....	5 70
	17	Enon church, balance 1890.....	50
	17	Hopewell church, balance for 1891.....	5 90
	17	Somerville church, by Herring.....	5 00
1892			
Oct.	1	Interest on F. C. Owen's bequest.....	20 00
	1	Interest on Courtland church fund.....	16 00
Total.....			\$494 28

1891		CR.	
Oct.	4	By cash for minutes and clerk.....	\$ 75 00
	4	Books, H. M. S. As.....	9 00
	4	Huckabee.....	25 00
	4	McClanahan.....	24 00
	4	B. F. Brothers.....	39 90
	4	John Speer.....	100 00
	4	W. B. Crumpton.....	62 70
	4	Mat Lyon.....	35 00
	4	H. R. Schramm.....	50 00
	4	paid A. L. Moody, mistake.....	4 92
	4	due Treasurer.....	4 65—\$429 87
1892			
Oct.	1	By balance on hand.....	\$ 64 41
		T. W. LYNCH, Treasurer.	

REPORT ON BIBLE AND COLPORTAGE WORK.

The report on Bible and Colportage work was read by Bro. J. Gunn and adopted, as follows:

We are delighted to know that the Baptists of Alabama, in their great love for truth, righteousness and the souls of men, have showed a liberality and zeal worthy of our honored name, in the establishment of a Bible and Colportage Board at Opelika, Ala., of which board W. E. Hudmon is the honored President, and J. B. Collier, the efficient Secretary. This Board is the recognized headquarters of the Baptists of Alabama, for the sale and distribution of denominational literature; such as Bibles, Testaments, religious books and tracts, and hymn books, together with Sunday school literature, whether the "Kind Words" series or the American Baptist Publication Society's series. This Board has in its employ twelve men, at work a part or all of their time. The work of these colporteurs is filling a vacancy of long standing. They "go," and as they go, preach. They come in personal contact with the people. These men sell the Word of God and other books and tracts, explanatory of the Word, and thus sow the seeds of life, which will spring up. They have found over 2 000 families without Bibles, and in many instances have given the Bibles to the poor and destitute. The sales of the Board have amounted to about \$4,000 in the last year. We recommend to our people to purchase of this Board. Because, 1st. It is ours. It is the child of the Baptist State Convention, and we are an important factor of that Convention. 2nd. By so doing we contribute 20 per cent of the purchase money to the Board. That is, if we order \$5 00 worth of books, the Board makes \$1.00, and we get our goods as cheap as if we ordered from headquarters.

J. GUNN, Chairman.

On motion the association adjourned to 7:30 p. m.
Prayer by Bro. A. E. Burns.

NIGHT SESSION.—7:30 P. M.

The association met pursuant to adjournment.

The religious services were led by Bro. A. E. Burns.

Prayer by Bro. W. D. Hubbard.

The report on deceased ministers was read by Bro. A. E. Burns and was adopted, and 3:30 p. m. was appointed for memorial services in memory of Elder Mathew Lyon, deceased.

IN MEMORIAM
OF
ELDER MATHEW LYON.

Your committee on deceased ministers beg leave to submit the following:

Since our last association, our much beloved brother, Elder Mathew Lyon, has been called from labor in the Master's vineyard to eternal rest in the presence of his Lord. Mathew Lyon was born in Warren county, Tennessee, August 27th, 1812. He removed with his father's family to South Carolina in childhood. He was brought up a printer, in Chesterfield District, in Cheraw, in his father's printing office. Here he attended the town academy for several years, where the foundation was well laid for the ripe and accurate scholarship for which our brother was so distinguished.

Bro. Lyon was born again, and was baptized into the fellowship of the Baptist church at Camden, S. C., in March, 1832, by Elder John M. Barnes. In 1836 Elder Lyon returned with his mother's family, (his father having died several years previously) to Tennessee, where he conducted a Baptist paper for two years, Rev. R. B. C. Howell, D. D., being editor. Early in 1849 he was licensed to preach the gospel by Carrollton Baptist church, Pickens county, Ala. On the 23rd of June following, he was ordained to the full work of the ministry, by a presbytery consisting of elders S. S. Lattimore, Wm. Stansell, Charles Stewart, John H. Taylor, C. B. Saunders, T. S. Thomas and M. C. Curry. He at once entered into the work with that zeal and earnestness characteristic of the man. After having served in the pastorate in West Alabama and Mississippi with signal ability and acceptance for many years, he came into our bounds and became pastor of Moulton church, in 1881, which he served nine years. Besides this church, he served the following churches, at different times: Danville, Hopewell, Euon, Harmony and Pleasant Grove. He also was missionary of this association for several years. As a preacher, Elder Lyon was distinguished for soundness of doctrine, thoroughness and accuracy, being a close student and original thinker. No one could hear him attentively without being benefited and instructed. He departed this life August 4th, 1892, aged 79 years, 11 months and 7 days.

Your committee would recommend that one hour of the present session be devoted to memorial services of our departed brother.

Fraternally submitted,

JOS. SHACKELFORD,

A. E. BURNS,

H. B. IRWIN,

Committee.

EDUCATION.

The subject of Education was then taken up.

The report of the Board of Ministerial Education was then read by Bro. Blackwelder. Also the report of the committee on Ministerial Education, by Bro. J. M. Roberts.

The report on Education was read by Bro. J. C. Tidwell.

The report of the joint committee on the Baptist High School was read by Bro. Jos. Shackelford.

The subject of education was then discussed by Dr. B. F. Riley, who spoke in the interest of Howard College and denominational education.

Bro. J. L. Thompson spoke in the interest of Ministerial Education.

Bro. C. G. Lynch offered the following resolution, which was unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That we endorse brethren John Speer, J. W. Sandlin and Briscoe, and recommend them as worthy of assistance in the prosecution of their studies as ministerial students.

After some remarks by Bro. Shackelford, pledges and collections were taken by Bro. J. M. Waller from the churches and individuals and Sunday-schools, for ministerial education, as follows:

PLEDGES AND COLLECTIONS FOR MINISTERIAL EDUCATION.

CHURCHES.		* INDIVIDUALS.	
Bethel (L).....	\$ 2 50	J. M. Roberts, paid.....	\$ 1 00
Blue Spring.....	15 00	Miss Dora Williams.....	1 00
Danville, paid \$1, (F. C.).....	7 50	W. T. Rowden.....	2 50
Decatur.....	5 00	W. J. Young.....	1 50
Enon.....	5 00	T. A. Jones.....	2 00
Falkville.....	1 00	Laban Gibson.....	1 00
Furnace Hill.....	5 00	A. J. DeWees.....	1 00
Hillsboro.....	10 00	John Barnes.....	1 00
Liberty.....	1 00	Mrs. Carrie Simpson.....	1 00
Mt. Nebo (M) paid.....	1 00	Miss Patty Gunn, paid.....	1 00
Mt. Hope.....	5 00	J. L. Thompson, paid.....	1 00
Moulton.....	10 00	C. G. Lynch, paid.....	1 00
Mt. Nebo (F).....	7 00	W. M. Blackwelder.....	1 00
New Prospect.....	5 00	A. E. Burns.....	1 00
Russellville.....	10 00	R. A. Kirkland.....	1 00
Sheffield.....	10 00	Mrs. A. Thomason.....	2 00
Pleasant Hill.....	5 00	J. M. Waller, paid.....	1 05
Shady Grove.....	1 00	E. Lacy.....	1 00
Tuscumbia.....	10 00	W. H. Simpson, paid.....	1 00
Town Creek, paid.....	10 00	Tell Moody.....	1 00
Isbell.....	5 00	Mrs. Ed Garrett.....	1 00
Central, New Decatur.....	12 00	D. W. Speak, paid.....	1 00
Harmony.....	2 50		
	\$145 50		\$ 28 05
			145 50

SUNDAY-SCHOOLS.

Russellville	\$5 00	Central.....	\$11 00
Tuscumbia.....	5 00	Moulton	12 00
Lacy's Springs.....	5 00	Town Creek.....	2 50
Decatur	5 00	Cash.....	1 00
Paper given by O. E. Comstock	6 00		
			52 50
Total.....			\$224 05

Bro. J. C. Tidwell offered a preamble and resolutions with reference to the report of the joint committee on the Baptist High School, which was laid over until Monday morning.

DEVOTIONAL COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

The Committee on Devotional Services for the Sabbath, made the following report:

- 11 a. m., at the Methodist church, Decatur, Elder W. S. Brown.
- 11 a. m., Congregational church, New Decatur, Elder R. T. Wear.
- 11 a. m., Central Baptist church, New Decatur, Elder J. M. Waller.
- 10:30 a. m., First Baptist church, Decatur, Elder B. F. Riley.
- 11 a. m., Presbyterian church, New Decatur, Elder J. Gunn.
- 11 a. m., Presbyterian church, Decatur, Elder J. M. Deveneau.
- 11 a. m., Baptist church, East Decatur, Elder J. E. Weaver.
- 3:30 p. m., Baptist church, Decatur, Memorial Services.
- 7:30 p. m., Baptist church, Decatur, Elder O. E. Comstock.
- 2 p. m., Baptist church, colored, Decatur, Elder John Speer.
- 8 p. m., Baptist church, " " Elder J. M. Roberts.

On motion, the association adjourned to 9 o'clock Monday morning.

Prayer by Bro. J. M. Roberts.

SUNDAY'S EXERCISES.

A Sunday-school mass meeting was held at the First Baptist church at 9 o'clock a. m. The report of the Sunday-school Board was read by Bro. C. J. Lynch, its chairman. Addresses were then made by Bros. J. M. Waller, W. S. Brown and C. G. Lynch, which occupied the time until the preaching hour.

The several appointments were filled by the brethren appointed, who preached to good congregations.

In the afternoon, at 3½ o'clock, a Memorial Service was held in the Baptist church, in memory of Elder Mathew Lyon, deceased, which was well attended. The service was led by Elder Jos. Shackelford, and was participated in by Bros. R. T. Wear, O. D. Gibson, M. Finney, Wm. East, C. G. Lynch and J. Gunn, all of whom spoke in fitting terms of our dearly beloved brother who has left us for his home in heaven.

FOURTH DAY'S PROCEEDINGS.

MONDAY, October 3, 1892, 8:30 A. M.

The association met, and, after religious service, led by Brother John Speer, was called to order by the Moderator.

The minutes of Saturday were read and approved.

STANDING COMMITTEES.

The Moderator announced the following standing committees:

- On Education—A. G. Spinks, F. R. Day, O. E. Comstock.
- On Ministerial Education—R. T. Wear, T. R. Bragg, J. T. Odell.
- On Temperance—C. G. Lynch, J. W. Livingston, J. E. Weaver.
- On Associational Missions—John Speer, J. W. Sandlin, J. E. Roane.
- On State Missions—A. E. Burns, J. D. McClanahan, W. W. NeSmith.
- On Foreign Missions—Mike Finney, E. D. Stephenson, G. H. Hughes.
- On Home Missions—H. R. Schramm, George W. Jackson, Wm. East.
- On Sunday Schools—J. M. Kitchens, Thos. Hutcheson, J. M. Roberts.
- Centennial Committee—H. R. Schramm, John Speer, J. M. Roberts.
- On Bible and Colportage Work—W. M. Blackwelder, M. Finney, Peter Clay.
- Auditing Committee—W. H. Simpson, H. B. Irwin, C. G. Lynch.
- Finance Committee—A. L. Moody, O. D. Gibson, A. W. Bailey.

The Moderator announced the following Committee on Time and Place of the meeting of the next Association, and preacher of the Introductory Sermon:

J. M. Kitchens, A. J. Walker, H. B. Irwin.

REPORT ON TEMPERANCE.

The report on Temperance, which was read and discussed on Friday night, and laid over, was taken up and discussed by Bros. M. Finney, J. C. Orr and H. R. Schramm, and adopted as follows:

Reports are intended to give information, to show progress made, and stress plans or necessities, but your committee have not undertaken the onerous work of compiling statistics, to ascertain thereby whether the evil of intemperance has increased or decreased since the last association. We are of the opinion, however, that the many years of faithful and patient work of Christian people is beginning to show good results. But, while we may rightfully rejoice that this is true, we must realize that the victory over the liquor traffic which is attended with such gigantic wickedness and misery, is, by no means, won. Baptists cannot afford to be laggards in this movement, and should seek to adopt the wisest and best plans and methods of action. As all people agree as to the magnitude of the evil, of the crime and pauperism created by it, and that if the manufacture and sale of intoxicants was stopped, the evil would cease, the question arises, what ought intelligent and Christian people to do in regard to it? We are aware that not a few of the leaders in the temperance movement, insist in answer to this question, that if we cannot have the traffic forbidden and suppressed, we will not consent that it shall have legal permission or protection, that whatever evil to society that may come from it, let it be without sanction of the State; that the law should take no cognizance of its existence. We doubt if this is the wisest course to pursue. It is certainly not the plan of dealing with other recognized nuisances. If we cannot stop its existence, let us adopt whatever course that may from time to time, remain open, by which the evils of the system can be mitigated, crime lessened, and misery minimized. Let us throw all the obstructions possible in the way of its progress. Let it be hampered and diminished by high license, weakened and brought into public disfavor by education and moral suasion, and if a member of the church so far forgets his Christian obligations as to lend his sanction and aid to it by signing a recommendation for the sale of liquor, let him be severely disciplined.

We sometimes hear people say, that if they could only hope to see universal prohibition, then every movement in that direction would have their hearty co-operation, but that if it was only to be prohibited at this or that place, the result would be merely an increase in the trade at some other

place. Such an idea is a fallacy that deserves to be eradicated from the minds of men. If grogeries are an evil, the more of them the worse for the community; the fewer, the better. Our laboring people are more likely to have their hard-earned wages in their pockets, for the benefit of their families at the end of the month, if, instead of having to walk by the door of a saloon, to get to their work, and face the glaring temptation to drink, they had to walk a half mile out of their way or order from a neighboring town. We should turn our attention more to the work immediately in hand, that is possible of accomplishment, and try to educate people to live sober lives. Much can be done by individual effort along this line, but the church of Christ with its heavenly influences is at last the great bulwark of power for temperance.

Respectfully submitted,

W. H. SIMPSON, Chairman.

REPORT ON EDUCATION.

The report on Education, which was read and discussed on Saturday night, was adopted as follows:

We note with much pleasure that there is more interest being manifested among our people with regard to the education of their children, than perhaps at any period in all the past. Indeed, the age demands that the Baptists, to keep pace with the times, must be up and doing all the time. We have taken some pains to find out how the schools generally have opened this year, and we find that they are opening with a decided increase over last year. One would think that times are not so hard after all. We have some good schools among the Baptists, schools that are known throughout the country. We refer with pride to the Howard and the Judson. These institutions ought to have the hearty encouragement of every Baptist in Alabama. They should be encouraged by our money and earnest prayers, and if we send our children to college, let us by all means send to these schools. Our work in ministerial education is progressing rather slowly, we think. We believe we have had two young brethren at school during last year. We are glad to be able to say that the High School for the education of our girls and boys, which has been talked of and written about so long, has been located at Danville, Morgan county, Ala. We feel that the strong and urgent demand of our people has been met in locating this school. It is designed to make this institution one of the best in all North Alabama, yea, as for that, one of the best in the state. We think the committee has acted wisely in locating this school at Danville. First. It is one of the most healthful places in the country. 2nd. It is noted for morals. 3rd. Danville is located in one of the most fertile valleys in North Alabama. Almost all the people are intelligent, and will lend their aid in fostering the institution. Now, since the school is located, and everything, we trust, will be ready to begin active operations by January 1st, 1893, let every Baptist who intends to send his girl or boy from home, to school, send to Danville. The boarding facilities will be unsurpassed, and if you want to give your children a good business education, send to Danville. If you want to fit them for college, we desire to fit them to enter at least the junior class at college.

We are glad to learn that the Baptist Male and Female Institute, at Moulton, has had a good opening this fall. The school is now under the control of Prof. Spinks, a scholarly gentleman, who is a graduate of Howard College.

Respectfully submitted,

J. C. TIDWELL,

J. D. McCLANAHAN,

Committee.

REPORT OF BOARD OF MINISTERIAL EDUCATION.

This report, which was read on Saturday night, was also adopted as follows—

The Board of Ministerial Education beg leave to report: The new board, appointed at the last session of the association, met in Decatur, November

1st, 1891. The board adopted as its beneficiaries, brethren B. F. Brothers and J. W. Sandlin; the former to attend Howard College, the latter, Moulton High School. There being no funds in hand, the secretary was instructed to make an appeal at once to the churches and individuals who had subscribed to this purpose, and urge a speedy response; and that the money collected be divided between the two brethren, as the needs of each seem to justify. The amount collected has been meager, and the board has been pained at its inability to render the assistance desired. It is hoped that our churches will not longer remain indifferent to the urgent necessities and worthy calls coming to them from those whom God has called to preach the gospel, and who are bravely struggling to prepare themselves for the high and holy vocation.

Respectfully submitted,
I. S. S. Chairman

W. M. BLACKWELDER, Secretary.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

W. M. BLACKWELDER,

DR.
In account with Board of Ministerial Education:

			DR.	
Dec	15	To cash from Hillsboro church.....	\$	5 00
"	23	" " " Tuscumbia S. S.....		4 00
"	26	" " " Ladies' Aid Society, Sheffield church.....		2 50
"	23	" " " A. L. Morely.....		5 00
<hr/>				
1892				
Jan	10	" " " East Decatur church.....		7 34
"	19	" " " Falkville church.....		1 25
Mch	23	" " " Pleasant Hill church.....		5 00
"	29	" " " Russellville church.....		10 00
"	25	" " " Danville church.....		5 00
May	9	" " " Russellville S. S.....		2 00
"	26	" " " Mt. Hope church.....		5 00
				<hr/>
				\$52 09
1891			CR.	
Dec	14	By cash paid Bro. B. F. Brothers.....	\$30	00
<hr/>				
1892				
March	26	By cash paid Bro. J. W. Sandlin.....		10 00
June	6	" " " " "		2 00
"	6	" " " " Frank Brothers.....		10 00
Oct	1	" balance in treasury.....		09
				<hr/>
				\$52 09

October 1, 1892.

Respectfully submitted,
W. M. BLACKWELDER, Treasurer.

REPORT ON MINISTERIAL EDUCATION.

This report was read on Saturday night and adopted to-day as follows:

Your committee, to whom was referred the subject of ministerial education, would report, that in our opinion this subject does not receive the support that it should. We deem this a very important branch of the work of this body. There are many reasons why we, as a denomination, should give more attention to this subject. We are living in an age when education is becoming almost universal, and the masses are being rapidly educated. In order to meet the demands of an educated people, we must have an educated ministry. Besides this, there is being taught among us many doctrines which we deem contrary to the Word of God, and the advocates of these doctrines put forth their best educated men to propagate and defend them, and if we would meet them with the Bible, we must have men who have the necessary qualifications, and one of those qualifications is an education. We would not say one word to disparage those good men who are doing a noble work for the Master, who have not the advantage of an edu-

cation; but would give them all the encouragement possible, but still we see the need of educated men to defend our doctrines and meet successfully the oppositions to the truth. We would urge upon this body the necessity of more liberal contributions and more earnest work in this direction. We are sorry to note among some of our people opposition to this work. We would again urge more liberal contributions, and that each giver to this cause accompany his contribution with an earnest prayer that God would bless the same to the good of the cause of Christ.

Respectfully submitted,

J. M. ROBERTS,
T. A. HUTCHESON,
J. N. BRAGG,
Committee.

NORTH ALABAMA BAPTIST HIGH SCHOOL.

The joint committee appointed by the Liberty, Muscle Shoals and Big Bear Creek Associations made their report. We give the substance of that report: The committee met in November last, at Hillsboro, and agreed to take steps to establish a Baptist High School, to be located within the territory of the three associations, and appointed a sub-committee to receive bids for the location of said school. The committee again met at Hillsboro July 18, 1892. One bid was received, which was from Danville, Morgan county, Alabama. The committee did not think the bid sufficient, and proposed to Danville that if that place would increase the bid, that is, put up another building, about the size of the one they proposed to give, and seat the same with school desks, and furnish blackboards, the school would be located there. The Danville people accepted the proposition, and agreed to deed to trustees appointed by the three associations the school property in that place known as the Danville Male and Female High School, consisting of about two acres of land, with a school building thereon 60 feet long and 38 feet wide, two stories high; also to put up another building of the same size, immediately north of the old building, and connected with it, and furnish 100 school desks and the necessary blackboards. The committee accepted the proposition and located the school at Danville. The committee, in their report, also suggested the appointment of trustees by the three associations, who should have the management of the property, and that the school be a male and female school.

The following resolutions, offered by Bro. J. C. Tidwell, were adopted:

Whereas, The Liberty Association, at its session in 1891, adopted a series of resolutions looking to the establishment of a Baptist male high school in North Alabama, within the territory embraced by the Liberty, Muscle Shoals, Big Bear Creek and Florence Associations, and invited those associations to join her in said enterprise; and

Whereas, The Muscle Shoals Association at its last session, held with the Hillsboro Baptist church, accepted the invitation of the Liberty Association to join her in this educational movement, and appointed a committee of three to meet with a similar committee from Liberty and the other associations, and agreed to give to said joint committee full power to act in the premises, according to their best judgment and wisdom; and

Whereas, The said joint committee from Liberty, Muscle Shoals and Big Bear Creek Associations has acted according to instructions, and has located said school at Danville, Morgan county, Alabama, and has reported its action to us at this session, and has also made several recommendations of importance; therefore, be it

Resolved, by Muscle Shoals Association, 1st, That we approve of the action of said joint committee in the location of the said high school at Danville.

Resolved, 2nd, That we approve of the action of the committee in changing the school from a male to a male and female school.

Resolved, 3rd, That we approve of the recommendations of the committee as presented in their report, and we do hereby appoint the following brethren as trustees of said school for the time mentioned:

For one year—A. W. Bailey, Sam'l Blackwell, A. L. Moody.

For two years—Jos. Shackelford, J. M. Kichens, T. L. Baker.

For three years—W. H. Simpson, J. C. Tidwell, G. C. Hardwick, who are authorized to act with the trustees appointed by the other associations in carrying out the recommendations of the joint committee.

Resolved, 4th, That we recommend this school, when established, to the patronage of the Baptists of this association, and trust that it will secure a large patronage.

Resolved, 5th, That we do not consider the establishment of this school and its location within the bounds of our association as at all in opposition to the prosperity of our associational school at Moulton. The school established at Danville is proposed to be a school of higher grade than the one at Moulton, and the Moulton school can become a feeder of the school at Danville. We desire both to succeed, and we cordially recommend both to the patronage of our people.

SUNDAY-SCHOOLS.

The report of the Sunday-school Board, which was read on Sunday, was adopted. This report was also received as a report of the Sunday-school committee:

We, your committee on Sabbath-schools, report, that we have examined the letters of the churches, and find from them the following:

New Decatur, Central Sunday-school—W. H. Simpson, Superintendent; postoffice, New Decatur.

Tusculumbia Sunday-school—A. S. Stanley, superintennent; officers and teachers, 7; pupils, 55; amount collected, \$45.50.

Town Creek Sunday-school—T. N. Jones, superintendent; officers and teachers, 5; pupils, 90; average attendance, 40; amount collected, \$6 00.

Shady Grove—J. W. Livingston, superintendent; officers and teachers, 5; pupils, 55.

Sheffield—A. J. Ivey, superintendent; officers and teachers, 10; pupils, 51; amount collected, \$25.00.

Russellville—C. G. Lynch, superintendent; officers and teachers, 7; pupils, 67; average attendance, 48; amount collected, \$19 00.

New Friendship—J. L. Wright, superintendent; officers and teachers, 6; pupils, 49.

New Decatur, First—J. C. Lance, superintendent; average attendance, 35; amount collected, \$27.06.

New Center Sunday-school—E. T. Simmons, superintendent; officers and teachers, 2; pupils, 38.

Mt. Nebo (F) Sunday-school—W. East, superintendent; average attendance, 25; collections, \$5.00.

Mt. Nebo (M) Sunday-school—R. B. Minter, superintendent; officers and teachers, 6; pupils, 40.

Moulton Sunday-school—A. G. Spinks, superintendent; enrollment, 52; average attendance, 40; collections, \$37.17; amount on hand for Sunday-school library, \$11.20.

Macedonia (F)—Pupils, 20; officers and teachers, 3.

Hillsboro—A. W. Bailey, superintendent; officers and teachers, 5; pupils, 40; average attendance, 20; collections, \$5.

Hartwell—D. W. Day, superintendent; officers and teachers, 7; pupils, 50.

Gum Spring—Officers and teachers, 4; pupils, 25.

Furnace Hill—O. E. Comstock, superintendent; average attendance, 25; officers and teachers, 2.

Decatur—T. D. Wilkerson, superintendent; officers and teachers, 8; pupils, 65; average attendance, 40.

Danville—J. C. Tidwell, superintendent; officers, 3; teachers, 5; pupils, 43.

Hopewell—Frank Orr, superintendent; no report.

Stinson's Store— ——— Bailey, superintendent; pupils, 20; officers and teachers, 2.

From the above we find 21 Sunday-schools reported; officers and teachers, 90; enrollment, 844.

We recommend the literature of the Southern Baptist Convention. We ask that the letters to the associations contain a more complete report of the Sabbath-schools and their work.

Respectfully submitted,

C. G. LYNCH,
WM. EAST,
R. A. KIRKLAND,
Committee.

BAPTIST MALE AND FEMALE INSTITUTE AT MOULTON.

Rev. C. G. Lynch reported the following brethren as trustees of the Baptist Male and Female Institute at Moulton, which was adopted:

Dr. R. M. Simpson, J. M. Sandlin, and J. N. Bragg.

Bro. Lynch also reported from the same committee a recommendation to sell the school property at Moulton, which was discussed at some length by Bros. C. G. Lynch, East, Sandlin, J. S. Gibson, A. D. Gibson, J. C. Orr and Shackelford; after which the following resolution, offered by Bro. Jos. Shackelford, was adopted:

Resolved, That the Baptist Male and Female Institute at Moulton, be authorized to deed the school property at Moulton to the Moulton Baptist church, with the understanding that the church keep up a Baptist school in said building, under the care of the church, and that when the church ceases to exist, the property reverts to the association.

REPORT ON STATE OF RELIGION.

The report of the committee on State of Religion was read by Bro. J. D. McClanahan, and adopted, as follows:

We, your committee on State of Religion, report that we are sorry that there is a decrease in the number of baptisms this associational year. We find that some of our churches report in their letters that they are weak, spiritually and financially. Some, however, report that they have had good meetings, and have been spiritually built up, and that peace dwells among the membership. We are sorry to report that our churches have not been waked up to their Christian duty, in giving of their substance to the spread of the gospel in our midst and among the lost millions beyond. There is more need of consecrated preachers and churches within the bounds of our association now than ever before. The field is wide and the laborers are few. We are proud to know that there is a good interest manifested in the Sunday-school work in our association. We would recommend that our churches wake up on the subject of religion, and that each church report at the next association a good prayer meeting and Sunday-school.

Respectfully submitted,

J. D. McCLANAHAN,
R. L. KEY,
H. A. McCLELLAN,
Committee.

The report of committee on Church Letters was read, and adopted, as follows:

DEAR BRETHREN—On examining the letters from the churches, we find that there has been added to the churches, by baptism, 87; by letter, 143, and by restoration, 9. Total additions, 239; a decrease by letter of 180; by

exclusion, 26; by death, 38. Total decrease, 244. Decrease in excess of additions, 5. The Danville church asks that the next association convene with her. Pleasant Hill church recommends that the number of delegates from each church be reduced from three to two. It also requests that an earnest effort be made to locate the Orphans' Home within the bounds of this association. Three churches report that they are without pastors, and two as having no preaching during the past year. Friendship, Shady Grove and Shoal Creek ask for aid in maintaining their pastors.

Respectfully submitted,

H. J. HALBROOKS,
J. N. THOMPSON,
T. L. RYAN, Committee.

RESOLUTIONS.

The following resolutions were adopted:

By Bro. John Speer:

Whereas, The Baptists of the Decatur and others have shown much kindness in taking care of the delegates to this association, be it

Resolved, That our most hearty thanks are hereby tendered to them for any and all kindness shown toward us during our stay among them.

By J. Speer:

Resolved, That our most hearty thanks be given to Miss Mattie Jones for her excellent rendition of music, as organist, during our meeting.

By C. G. Lynch:

Resolved, That we have 1,200 copies of the minutes printed, and that the Treasurer be instructed to pay for the same out of the minute fund in his hands, if sufficient; if not, to pay for same out of other funds in his hands; and that the Clerk superintend the printing and distribution of the minutes, and be allowed \$25 for his services, to be paid by the Treasurer, and that he have the minutes published in sixty days, if possible.

By J. S. Gibson:

Resolved, That the churches be requested to state in their letters the amount of minute fund they contribute out of the money they send to the association.

By H. J. Halbrooks:

Resolved, That all churches receiving aid from our Board be required to take up collections at least once every three months.

Resolved, 2nd, That the missionaries employed be also requested to take up quarterly collections at their preaching stations.

Resolved, 3rd, That the pastors preaching to such churches, and the missionaries employed be requested to make quarterly reports of their work to the Board.

On motion, a new Executive Board was appointed, whose names appear on the first page of the cover.

On motion a new Board of Ministerial Education was appointed, whose names appear on the first page of the cover.

DIVISION OF FUNDS.

By Jos. Shackelford.

Resolved, That the Treasurer of this association be instructed to send all moneys specially contributed to the State, Foreign and Home Mission Boards, by the churches to those boards; and that he send to those boards

such moneys as he may be directed to send by the Executive Board, which board is hereby instructed to divide the funds contributed to this body, after paying all incurred obligations for the past year, between the different boards, Associational, State, Foreign and Home, according to their best judgment and the wants of the home field.

TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING.

The committee on Time and Place of Next Meeting and Preacher of the Introductory Sermon and Alternate, reported as follows, which was adopted:

We, your committee, report Danville church as the place, and Bro. W. M. Blackwelder as the preacher of the Introductory Sermon, and Bro. A. E. Burns as alternate. Time, Friday before the first Sabbath in October, 1893.
J. M. KICHENS, Ch'n.

CHANGE OF CONSTITUTION.

Notice was given of an amendment to the 4th Article of the Constitution, to be offered at the next session. The change proposed is to reduce the number of delegates from each church to two. The amendment to the 6th article of the Constitution, offered last year, was adopted, and now Moderator and Clerk are to be elected by ballot.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The following brethren were appointed as Corresponding Messengers and Delegates to the Conventions and Associations named.

To Big Bear Creek Association—C. G. Lynch, A. L. Moody, A. E. Burns, R. T. Wear, John Speer.

To Liberty Association—Jos. Shackelford, John Speer, H. R. Schramm.

To Baptist State Convention—Jos. Shackelford, A. L. Moody, J. C. Orr, A. E. Burns, O. E. Comstock, H. R. Schramm, W. M. Blackwelder, John Speer, H. J. Halbrooks.

To Cullman Association—H. J. Halbrooks, J. N. Thompson.

To Southern Baptist Convention—John Speer; J. Gunn, alternate.

The following resolution, offered by Bro. Jos. Shackelford, was adopted.

Resolved, That the Executive Board be instructed to require all churches assisted by the board, to give so much as the board may determine, for the support of their pastors, and the board to supplement the same.

REPORT OF FINANCE COMMITTEE.

The committee on Finance made their report, which was adopted, with the understanding that the Clerk be authorized to make such changes as may be necessary.

On motion, the Association then adjourned, after singing a hymn, and giving the parting hand, and prayer by Bro. C. B. Lloyd.

JACKSON GUNN, MODERATOR.

JOSEPHUS SHACKELFORD, Clerk.

RECAPITULATION.

	Cash.	Vouchers.	Total.
For Missions generally.....	\$172 80	\$.....	\$172 80
For Associational Missions.....	79 10	83 75	112 85
For State Missions.....	37 53	110 14	147 67
For Home Missions	5 00	38 12	43 12
For Foreign Missions.....	18 40	70 03	88 43
For Ministerial Education..	36 85	42 50	79 35
Individual pledges for missions	5 00	2 50	7 50
Individual pledges for Education.....	5 00	5 00	10 00
Bible and Colportage.....	.....	4 08	4 08
Minute Fund.....	33 85	.....	33 85
Saturday collections for Missions.....	1 52	.....	1 52
Sunday collections for Missions.....	14 11	.....	14 11
Centennial Fund..	12 00	.....	12 00
Saturday collections for Ministerial Edu....	37 55	.....	37 55
Southern Theological Seminary..	.....	5 00	.....
Total.....	\$458 79	\$311 12	\$769 91
By amount paid J. M. Waller (Centennial Fund).....	.....	.....	\$ 12 08
By amount paid Board of Ministerial Education...	.....	.....	69 40
By amount paid Treasurer.....	.....	.....	371 66
By amount handed Clerk after settlement with the Treasurer.....	.....	.....	5 65
			\$458 79

Respectfully submitted,

A. L. MOODY, Chairman.

REMARKS BY THE CLERK.—The amounts collected at the Centennial meetings and reported by the churches are included in the columns for Foreign and Home Missions. The total amount paid out during the year for Missions and Education, as reported to the Finance Committee, is \$769.91.

REPORT OF FINANCE COMMITTEE OF MUSCLE SHOALS ASSOCIATION.

CHURCHES.	Missions Generally		Associational Missions.		State Missions.		Home Missions.		Foreign Missions.		Ministerial Education.		Minute Fund		Bible and Colportage.		Individual Pledges for Missions.		Individual Pledges for Education.	
	Cash	Vchs.	Cash	Vchs.	Cash	Vchs.	Cash	Vchs.	Cash	Vchs.	Cash	Vchs.	Cash	Vchs.	Cash	Vchs.	Cash	Vchs.	Cash	Vchs.
Bethel (L).....	\$ 10 00										\$ 2 50		\$ 1 00							
Bethel (M).....																				
Blue Springs.....			10 00																	
Cave Spring.....																				
Danville.....	35 00																			
Decatur, First Church.....	10 00																			
Decatur, Central.....																				
Decatur, New.....			5 00		10 00															
Etha.....																				
Enon.....			1 50		9 50															
Friendship.....	3 50																			
Fairville.....	7 65																			
Furnace Hill.....																				
Gum Spring (L).....	2 80																			
Gum Spring (M).....	5 00																			
Harmony.....																				
Hillsboro.....			25 00	15 00		10 00														
Hopewell.....																				
Harpell.....	7 00		1 25																	
Lebanon.....	5 00		1 00																	
Liberty.....																				
Macedonia (F).....	3 00				4 90	5 10					2 50		2 50							
Macedonia (M).....			5 00																	
Mt. Zion (M).....																				
Mt. Nebo (F).....			25 00																	
Mt. Nebo (M).....			8 50																	
Mt. Hope.....	10 00																			
Mission Grove.....	12 00																			
Mt. Pisrah.....	25 00		2 00																	
Monlon.....																				
New Friendship.....																				
New Hope.....																				
New Prospect.....																				
New Center.....	5 00																			
Okalona.....																				
Pleasant Grove.....			2 00																	
Russellville.....	3 00																			
Salem.....																				
Shelfield.....																				
Cherry Hill.....																				
Shoal Creek.....	2 00																			
Somerville.....																				
Stately Grove.....																				
Pleasant Hill.....																				
Sharp's Spring.....	1 50																			
Town Creek.....			5 60																	
Tusculum.....																				
Isbell.....																				
Bethany.....	3 00																			
Total.....	\$ 172 80	\$ 79 10	\$ 33 75	\$ 37 53	\$ 110 14	\$ 5 00	\$ 33 12	\$ 18 40	\$ 70 03	\$ 36 55	\$ 42 50	\$ 38 85	\$ 4 08	\$ 5 00	\$ 2 50	\$ 5 00	\$ 5 00	\$ 5 00	\$ 5 00	\$ 5 00

Sunday-school. *Centennial Fund. †W. B. Crumpton.

FINANCIAL EXHIBIT OF MUSCLE SHOALS BAPTIST ASSOCIATION—1892.

CHURCHES.	Home Missions.	Foreign Missions.	State Missions.	Bible and Colportage.	Howard College & Associated Educational Board.	Ministerial Edu. Theo. Seminary.	Minutes.	Associational Purpose.	Benevolence.	S. S. Expenses.	Total.	Pastor's Salary.	Repairs, Fuel, etc.	Value of Building and Furniture.
Bethel (L)					\$ 2 50		1 00	10 00			13 50			400 00
Bethel (M)		7 50					75	10 00			18 50			400 00
Bethany							75	3 00			3 75			
Blue Springs					1 75		1 40	5 00			5 00			400 00
Cave Spring							2 00	5 00			7 00			
Cherry Hill							2 00	5 00		15 00	39 11	254 00		
Central, New Decatur		5 70	13 31		6 00		50	35 00	6 75		76 46	128 00	17 25	1200 00
Danville		12 46	18 27	28 06	4 12		1 00	7 65		25 00	92 80	400 00		350 00
Decatur, 1st							1 10				2 60			800 00
Etha							1 00	1 50			16 67	125 00		500 00
Euclid							1 00	8 50			5 00			
Friendship							1 00	7 65			8 65	60 00		800 00
Falkville							1 00	1 50			8 15	18 30	33 16	500 00
Furnace Hill							75	2 80			3 55			50 00
Gum Spring (L)							50	5 00			5 50			
Gum Spring (M)							50	5 00			6 35			
Harmony							1 50	40 00		5 00	66 50	150 00	21 25	2250 00
Hillsboro							2 25				2 25			
Hopewell							1 50	8 25			19 75	100 00	30 00	1000 00
Hartwell							50				5 00			
Isbell							50	6 00			6 50	20 00		
Lebanon		2 50	10 00		2 50		50	5 00			15 50			400 00
Liberty							35	8 00			8 35			
Macedonia (F)							50	5 00			5 50			
Macedonia (M)							65				4 65			
Mt Zion (M)		4 00					50	8 50			27 50			
Mt. Nebo (F)					2 50		50	2 50		6 00	17 50	60 00	25 00	550 00
Mt. Nebo (M)					2 50		50	12 00			12 50			
Mission Grove					5 00		75	10 00			18 75			
Mt. Hope					5 00		1 00	28 12 00			45 00	120 00		
Moulton							1 00	2 35			8 35			850 00
Mt. Pisgah							80				2 80			
New Hope		2 50					80				2 80			
New Friendship		1 25					1 00	10 00			11 00			
New Prospect							50	5 00			5 50			
New Center							50	5 00			50 53			850 00
New Decatur		5 28	17 40	10 00			50	5 00			5 50			200 00
Okolona							50	2 00			2 50			100 00
Pleasant Grove							50	10 00			29 55			500 00
Pleasant Hill		13 05	10 00				50	5 00			14 40			1350 00
Russellville							50	5 00			55 34	200 00	90 00	2000 00
Sheffield							1 50			25 00	6 85			200 00
Salem			6 15				70				2 85			200 00
Shoal Creek							35	2 00			20 85			200 00
Somerville		5 40	9 27	6 15				6 00		2 32	8 32	19 00		600 00
Shady Grove								2 00		45 50	39 10	209 50	200 25	3000 00
Tusculum					81 60		10 00				2 00			400 00
Tharp Spring							50	5 00			15 40			800 00
Town Creek							10 00							

Total.....\$48 12 \$ 108 08 \$ 137 67 \$ 4 84 \$94 35 \$10 00 \$33 85 \$ 298 65 \$18 75 \$ 135 02 \$ 877 35 \$1862 80 \$ 56 91 \$ 2290 08

*For Sunday-school. †For Ministerial Education. ‡Centennial Fund.

Total collections at churches.....	\$377 35
Collection at Associations for Education.....	77 55
Centennial Fund.....	12 08
F. C. Owen Fund.....	15 68
Courtland Church Fund.....	30 00
	16 00

Grand total paid by churches during the year and col. at Assn's..\$978 60

298.65-
18.75-
15.63
20.
353.00

